

**EXHIBIT A
TO
TESTIMONY OF
DAVID L. COHEN
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT
COMCAST CORPORATION**

**BEFORE THE
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM**



Comcast Corporation
1500 Market Street
Philadelphia, PA 19102-2148

April 6, 2006

Via Telecopier and First Class Mail

Mr. Allan H. (Bud) Selig
Commissioner
Major League Baseball
245 Park Avenue, 31st Floor
New York, NY 10167

Re: Washington Nationals Baseball

Dear Commissioner Selig:

As you know, Comcast has had a long-standing interest in supporting the return of Major League Baseball (MLB) to Washington and in carriage of the Nationals games.

We are a major distributor of MLB games through our various regional sports networks, including Comcast SportsNet Mid-Atlantic. We pride ourselves on offering our customers the best in television sports and entertainment, and we consider our significant partnership with MLB teams to be an integral part of that offering. In addition, we distribute MLB's out-of-market baseball package, *Extra Innings*, in Comcast systems serving over 20 million customers and carry numerous other baseball teams' games through relationships with many other unaffiliated regional sports networks.

In Washington and Baltimore, however, our customers will be unable to watch many of the games of the Washington Nationals. This unfortunate result has occurred because MLB has taken the unprecedented step of granting to a competing team's owner control over the local broadcast television rights of the Nationals, apparently in perpetuity. We are not aware of a similar situation anywhere else in major league baseball, or in any other professional sport, for that matter. As a result of this unique arrangement, MLB has declined to offer Comcast the opportunity even to make an offer to acquire the local cable television rights to the Nationals' games at any price. Rather, the rights to televise the games were granted to Mid-Atlantic Sports Network (MASN) without any consideration of other buyers' interest. MASN is a network formed by the Baltimore Orioles and MLB that has yet to reach full distribution in the marketplace. (In fact, MASN does not even have a full-time programming schedule today -- either during the baseball season or for the rest of the year.) In addition, those rights were

granted to MASN at what we believe is a below-market rights fee to the Nationals (a rights fee lower than that which we were willing to pay), thereby depriving the new Washington team of critical revenues it needs to compete effectively in the market.

This situation has been detrimental not only to MLB and the Nationals, but also to the residents who live in the territory of the Washington Nationals, including Washington and Baltimore. For example, as a result of this structure, Peter Angelos, as owner of the competing Baltimore Orioles franchise, has been put in the position to control how many Nationals games are carried on over-the-air broadcast television and in which segments of the market.

In an attempt to do what is best for your fans and our customers, we would like to propose a resolution that allows the games of the Nationals to be seen across the Nationals' territory immediately and that ensures that the Nationals and their fans are treated fairly and equitably in the future. This proposal is as follows:

1. MLB and Mr. Angelos should agree to terminate their current arrangement and enter into an alternative compensation arrangement as you deem appropriate – financed by your owners and not by the fans and our customers. You can then return the local television rights for the Nationals to the team and the new owner of the team can commit to a process for the sale of the Nationals' television rights in which all legitimate telecast partners (including MASN and Comcast SportsNet) would be invited to make proposals. This will ensure that the Nationals – like every other team in MLB – is in control of its own local television rights and that the team receives a market rate for those rights.
2. Should the above actions take place, Comcast will agree to carry all of the Nationals games that are available for local cable broadcast for this season, effective immediately. We will carry the games on Comcast SportsNet, CN8, or another available cable channel. In this way, all of the fans in the market will have immediate access to all Nationals games while the long-run solution outlined above is put into place.
3. In exchange for these rights, Comcast is prepared to pay to the Nationals a rights fee for this season equal to the rights fee being paid by MASN for the *non-exclusive* rights to carry Nationals games as part of this interim arrangement. This offer will enable MASN to continue its carriage of the Nats and will also double the rights fee being earned by the Nationals this year.
4. Comcast is prepared to take the MASN feed of Nationals games, to take a MLB feed of those games, or to produce the games itself.

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We believe that this proposal is in the best interests of all parties and especially is in the best interests of your fans and our customers.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen B. Burke". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Stephen B. Burke
President, Comcast Cable